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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Patent Application of |) | MAIL STOP |
| Takeshi Morikawa et al. |) | |
| Application No.: 10/730,110 |) | Group Art Unit: 2625 |
| Filed: December 9, 2003 |) | Examiner: Mark R. Milia |
| For: DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS |) | Confirmation No.: 5434 |
| AND DATA PROCESSING |) | |
| METHOD |) | |

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.
Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 16 remain pending where claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 15 were previously cancelled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 16 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged unpatentability over *Salgado* (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,621) in view of *Mishima* (JP 11-041429). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Contrary to the position taken by the Office, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of *Salgado* and *Mishima* do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

As stated in Applicants' previous response, *Salgado* discloses a system for managing a queue in a printing system. The system includes a printing machine 12 having a control module that coordinates the operation of the scanner and printer in a digital copying arrangement. The control module 16 includes, among other, a bus